



Rebuilding Agricultural Markets Program (RAMP)

Sector:	Agriculture
SO-1:	Reestablish Food Security
Program Name:	RAMP
Implementer:	Chemonics International, Inc.
Duration:	July 2003 – June 2006

Despite initial growing pains, USAID is pleased with the current staffing and implementation of the RAMP Program. The major program areas include:

Improving Irrigation Systems

- over 320 km of canals de-silted
- 233 irrigation structures repaired
- irrigation for 310,000 ha of farmland improved
- over 22,545 Afghans employed in rehabilitation of irrigation structures
- more than \$1,409,079 million labor wages injected into local economies

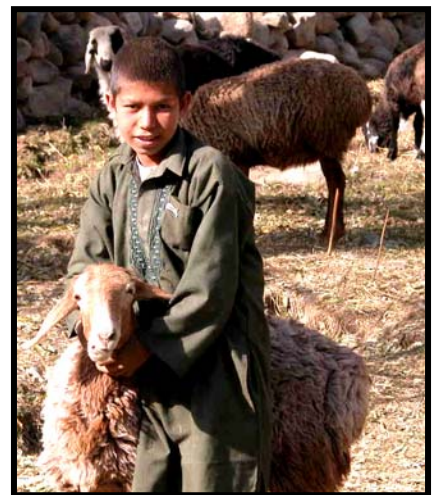


Improving Market Infrastructure

- 287 km farm to market roads rehabilitated
- 141 multipurpose market centers constructed
- 6 storage and processing warehouses constructed

Rebuilding the Livestock Sector

- 11,000 women trained in poultry production technology and management and 55,800 chickens distributed
- 588,000 farmers served by extension
- 247 veterinary field units established in 23 provinces and trained para-vets provided 2.3 million vaccinations and treatments.



Market Development

- 17 village-based seed enterprises (VBSE) established to have self-sufficiency in supply of improved and high yielding seed varieties for grains



and vegetable. Members of these enterprises have been supplying their seed requirements last year (2004) and selling to other farmers. The VBSEs supplied the 40MT of wheat seed distributed in December 2004 for the Nangarhar “emergency wheat campaign”.

- Pilot air shipment of fresh grapes to India and UAE in 2004 is paving the way for commercial exports to the region. Similarly, sample processed fruits sent to Europe received encouraging feedback.
- Participation of Afghan entrepreneurs in trade missions and fairs proved to be a good market exposure and source of market information (e.g., price, quality). The recent trade show in New Delhi resulted into an Afghan processor/exporter of dried nuts and fruits signing contracts with a number of Indian buyers.

Project Highlights

Emergency Wheat Distribution in Nangarhar: In response to Afghanistan’s “emergency wheat campaign” against poppy production, RAMP, in collaboration with other organizations, distributed 490MT of wheat seed and 1,478MT of fertilizer to 19,500 Afghan farming families in approximately one week’s time. In turn, the farmers pledged not to plant poppy.



Vegetable Dehydration Plant, Charikar, Parwan: Project cost of \$3.1 million was shared by RAMP (\$2.3M) and Development Works Canada (\$800,000). Approximately 1,400 Afghan farmers will supply the factory with vegetables such as carrots, cauliflowers, onions, turnips, spinach, French beans, chili peppers and zucchini. The factory will employ and train 400 Afghan women to supply sun dried tomatoes for processing at the factory. An estimated 6,000 to 7,000 rural Afghans will benefit from the operation of the factory. Buyers from Germany, the Netherlands and the UK have signed an agreement to buy the projected 2005 production of the factory, valued at \$1.2 million. This demonstration factory may be replicated in other provinces, using agribusiness funding available through RAMP and the Afghanistan International Bank.



Micro-lending: The \$5 million contribution to the Microfinance Investment and Support Facility (MISFA) created by the World Bank) as direct loan capital to 12 Micro-Finance Institutions (MFI). The MFIs are present in 14 provinces, 77 districts. Loans range between \$50 and \$3,000. Approximately 9,506 loans have been disbursed for micro enterprises.

Small and Medium Enterprise Lending: RAMP provided \$2 million for funding of revolving credit facility (total assets of \$10 million) to be established by Afghanistan International Bank (AIB). Loan amounts are to range from \$50,000 - \$500,000. Loans disbursed to date:

- 1) \$50,000 for veterinary medicine to an agriculture input dealer (Kabul);
- 2) \$350,000 – working capital to a new flour mill (Kunduz province) with 200 mt of wheat /day capacity; and
- 3) \$280,000 – loan to a water pump company for purchase of equipment (Kabul).

Equipment and Machinery Leasing: RAMP provided \$3.5 million in seed money for the creation of Afghanistan Finance Company (AFC). Leasing is particularly appropriate for agricultural production and processing enterprises which are equipment and machinery intensive. AFC started operation in November 2004.

Equity Fund: RAMP provided \$3.8 million contribution to the Afghanistan Renewal Fund to provide capital to agribusinesses through equity participation and \$200,000 for technical assistance to the fund. With capitalization of \$20 million, the fund will invest in agribusiness, financial institutions, light industries and distributors. 20% of the fund's initial investment will target agribusinesses.